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Manuscripts & Folklife Archives
 Special Collections Library
 Department of Library Special Collections
 Western Kentucky University
 Bowling Green, KY 42101-1092

Descriptive Inventory

MSS 488 LANIER COLLECTION

4 boxes. 46 folders. 766 items. 1787-1982. Originals and photocopies

2004.99.1

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Deana June Linville was the daughter of Charles and Lena (Harris) Linville. Her father operated a mercantile establishment that sold coal in Acorn, Pulaski County, Kentucky; the family also operated a coal mine. Later, the family lived in Somerset and attended the Church of God, which is mentioned frequently in the letters. The Linvilles also had a son, Donald Gene, who married in 1954. He attended Bowling Green Business University (1955-1956), but later received his Bachelor's degree from Eastern Kentucky University. He later lived in Sellersville, Indiana. Deana married Thomas Franklin Lanier on 19 April 1954 in Ashland City, Tennessee. The elder Linvilles gave operating control of their store to their son Donald and his new wife Nellie in 1954. In the late 1960s and early 1970s the Linvilles began purchasing houses in Somerset and converting them to rental properties. Lena's letters are filled with projects related to those properties.

Charlie began taking classes at Eastern Kentucky University to get a teaching certificate in 1965; he began teaching in Junction City in 1967, and Lena began working in the Somerset hospital in 1967. Charles and Lena both died in 1987 and are buried in the Somerset Cemetery.

After their marriage, Deana June and Thomas Lanier lived at 1270 Kentucky Street in Bowling Green, where they were attending the Bowling Green Business University. They had a daughter, Stephanie, in the fall of 1954 and a son, Thomas, Jr., in 1967. The Laniers moved to Greensboro, North Carolina by January 1968, where Thomas, Sr. eventually became president of Covington Diesel. Thomas was born on 2 March 1933 in Harnett County, North Carolina, the son of Seaton Gail Lanier, Sr. and Lizzie Stephens Lanier. He was a graduate of Campbell University (North Carolina) and Bowling Green Business University. He retired from Covington Diesel in the mid-1990s and began a new career as marketing and sales consultant for Vitality Communications, Inc. He served as a volunteer in various leadership capacities at Campbell University and in a number of professional and charitable organizations. He also served on the board of BB&T Bank. Deana June worked for twenty-one years as a legal secretary. She was heavily involved in charitable work in Greensboro, and the couple was heavily involved at Parkway Baptist Church. Thomas and Deana June died in 2002 and 2003 respectively and were buried in Greensboro's Forest Lawn Cemetery.

Byrd Lanier (1777-1819) and Collins Lanier (1765-1841) were sons of Thomas Lanier (1731?-1797) and Mary Lanier, and were born in the vicinity of Greensville, Brunswick County, Virginia. Both brothers migrated to Warren County, Kentucky. Byrd died in 1819 (burial location unknown) and Collins served as the administrator of his estate. Byrd's wife was Susan Cain, and they had three daughters: Cilia (Celia) Munford Lanier, Susan Perry Lanier and Patsey (Lanier) Patrick. Collins died in Simpson County in 1841 (burial location unknown); his wife was Lucy Berryman.

COLLECTION NOTE

Box 1, Folder 2 consists chiefly of letters written by Charles Linville to Lena Harris. These courtship letters are filled with plans about what the couple will do once they have saved the money to marry. They married on 25 March 1929 in Somerset, Kentucky, consequently some of the letters are sent to Lena Linville. During most of the correspondence, Charles is working for Kroger's in Cincinnati, while Lena is at home in Acorn, Pulaski County, Kentucky. In some of the letters, Charles is writing from Detroit, Michigan. They document some of the Appalachian diaspora of the mid-twentieth century. The folder includes one letter written by Floyd Harris, Lena's brother, from the penitentiary at LaGrange, Kentucky.

Folder 3 includes letters written by Lena Harris Linville to her daughter Deana June Linville while she is attending the University of Kentucky. She writes about family matters, domestic and farm chores, fishing expeditions, and reminds her daughter to not stay out late, not get wet from fear of polio, not go out with boys alone, etc.

Folder 4 includes two letters and a Christmas card from her grandmothers.

Folders 5-11 continue the letters sent from Lena Harris Linville to her daughter Deana June Linville, who has transferred from the University of Kentucky to Bowling Green Business University in Bowling Green. However the subject matter remains the same. At some point in these letters, Lena's letters are addressed to Somerset rather than Acorn. After Deana marries in 1954, her mother's letters ask about household affairs such as cooking. Later letters concern family affairs, particularly in Folder 11 which mention the divorce of Deana's brother, Donald.

Box 2 continues the letters written by Lena (Harris) Linville to her daughter June. In Folder 1, Lena talks about her husband entering school at Eastern Kentucky University in 1965 in order to get a teaching certificate; he began teaching at Junction City, Kentucky in 1967. Lena, herself, began working at the Somerset hospital in 1967 and she talks about how satisfying the work was. Also in 1967 a son, Tom, Jr., was born to June and Thomas in Bowling Green. She continues to write frequent asides to her granddaughter Stephanie. Folder 6 contains chiefly thank you notes to Deana from her father Charlie; it also contains three 1936 receipts from Sue Bennett College in London, Kentucky. Folder 7 includes letters written by Donald Gene Linville to his sister June. The remainder of Box 2 and the first four folders of Box 3 consist of letters written, almost exclusively to June from individuals other than family members. They are filled with the gossip of Somerset, religious happenings, concerns about courtship and other teen matters. A signal exception is Folder 9 which contains letters written to June by Eleanore Eissengarten, a pen pal from Germany. They discuss topics typical of female teens, but they also include information about post-World War II Germany and the effects of shortages and the lack of money.

Box 3, Folders 1-4 continue letters received by June (Linville) Lanier from various individuals between 1943 and 1970, but the letters in Folder 4 are undated. Many of the letters, almost exclusively from female correspondents, continue the themes discussed in the earlier letters in Box 3: courtship, boys, infatuations with celebrities, church attendance, school, social events, children, clothing, etc. Folder 5 includes a paper written by June on Insurance, possibly as an assignment at the Bowling Green Business University. Folder 6 contains a few pieces of correspondence of Stephanie Lanier as a child. One letter was written to her by her grandmother, Lena Linville; also included is a letter from June to her parents while a college student at Appalachia State University in Boone, North Carolina. Folder 7 contains genealogical material about the Linville family, although the pages regarding the children of Charles & Lena is not included. Folder 8 includes photocopies of news clippings and political material from Lena's father, J. Frank Harris. Folder 9 includes newspaper clippings about sports teams and current events in Somerset, as well as two postcards of interest: one announcing the prices of permanents at the Somerset Beauty Service in 1943 and one inviting people to the student revival being held at Bowling Green's First Baptist Church in 1952. Folder 9 also includes a photocopy of a letter from President Jimmy Carter to Thomas Lanier asking him to participate in a seminar on foreign trade and export development in 1979 and an invitation to the dedication of the Acorn Church of God Chapel Cemetery in Pulaski County. Folder 10 holds photocopies of photographs and biographical information about Thomas Franklin Lanier and June Linville Lanier.

Box 4 contains some very early documents from Warren County, Kentucky, including in Folder 1, correspondence, documents, and other records, 1800-1820 of Byrd Lanier. It consists chiefly of receipts, land records, and promissory notes. Folder 2 contains many of the same types of documents, but they relate specifically to Lanier's estate which was handled by his brother Collins Lanier. One item of interest is a document for hiring out of a slave and the compensation for it in 1820. Folder 3 includes similar documents that were generated by Collins Lanier. Of significance is a 1787 reference letter written for Collins by Nicholas Sebrell Philom. Folder 4 contains correspondence, receipts and financial papers of William Lewis. Receipts and accounts for William F. Matlock, Woodburn, Kentucky, can be found in Folder 5 along with a newsy letter from his friend G.B. Sloss who is writing from Bastrop, Texas and makes the remark that: "I do believe Texas was never made for white man to inhabit, and particularly me." This folder also includes a letter from his brother James F. Matlock who was writing from Marysville, California in 1850. He mentions a dry winter, mining, scarcity of women, his health and his work on a ranch. Folder 6 includes some Warren County, Kentucky land documents; a subscription school contract with James Moore of Warren County to operate a school, 1815; a slave bill of sale from Warren County, 1819; a receipt for tobacco sold in New Orleans including drayage, cooperage, storage and commission, 1827; and various other receipts and bills/notes. Folder 7 contains correspondence, receipts related to the White family, chiefly letters written by Mattie H. Pistole, Post Oak, Texas to Lucy White, Woodburn, Kentucky, 1887-1888. This folder also contains a courtship poem written by G.W. White "To the divine Miss Roa Lanier [Lanier]." Folder 8 includes two holographic poems about the Beauchamp/Sharp Tragedy titled "Beauchamp Lamentation"; a printed broadside announcing the publication of a newspaper "Spirit of the Times" in Bowling Green, Kentucky; an anti-Prohibition printed broadside from Fayetteville, Tennessee; a postcard from R.S. Brown of Louisville announcing his real estate services to people "going to Texas or the West!"; a printed broadside for Doctor Benjamin Godfrey's Cordial; and a copy of the poem "Nelly Gray." Folder 9 contains a typical eighteenth

century ciphering book that was created by Collins Lanier in 1787-1788, which is coverless and heavily stained.

SHELF LIST

BOX 1	Lanier Collection	1928-1965	253 items
Folder 1	Inventory and data	2002-2003	6 items
Folder 2	Letters (pre and post marriage) chiefly to Lena (Harris) Linville from her husband Charles Linville	1928-1938	13 items
Folder 3	Letters to Deana June Linville from mother	1951	33 items
Folder 4	Letters and greeting card to Deana June Linville from grandmothers	1951-1952	3 items
Folder 5	Letters to Deana June Linville from mother	1952	49 items
Folder 6	Letters to Deana June Linville from mother	1953	43 items
Folder 7	Letters to Deana June Linville from mother	1954	47 items
Folder 8	Letters to Deana June Linville Lanier and her husband Tony Lanier	1954	16 items
Folder 9	Letters to Deana June Linville Lanier and her husband Tony Lanier from mother	1955	25 items
Folder 10	Letters to Deana June Linville Lanier and Tony Lanier from mother	1956	9 items
Folder 11	Letters to Deana June Linville Lanier and family from mother	1965	9 items
BOX 2	Lanier Collection	1946-1981	205 items
Folder 1	Letters to Deana June Linville Lanier and family from mother	1966-1967	26 items
Folder 2	Letters to Deana June Linville Lanier and family from mother	1968-1970	16 items

Folder 3	Letters to Deana June Linville Lanier and family from mother	1971	17 items
Folder 4	Letters to Deana June Linville Lanier and family from mother	1972-1974	15 items
Folder 5	Updated and partial letters to Deana June Linville Lanier and family from mother	1973	8 items
Folder 6	Letters to Deana Linville Lanier and family from father	1958-1971	9 items
Folder 7	Letters to Deana June Linville Lanier and family from brother Don and family	1968-1971	7 items
Folder 8	Letters to Deana June Linville Lanier from Rubye Moore Cain	1954-1981	7 items
Folder 9	Letters to Deana June Linville Lanier from Maria Eleanore Eissengarthen	1948-1976	23 items
Folder 10	Letters to Deana June Linville Lanier from Norma June Sears Etherton	1950-1952	7 items
Folder 11	Letters to Deana June Linville Lanier from Bobbie Jo Gilliland	1948-1955	27 items
Folder 12	Letters to Deana June Linville Lanier and family from Helen Harris	1956	11 items
Folder 13	Letters to Deana June Linville Lanier from Shirley Linville	1946-1951	7 items
Folder 14	Letters to Deana June Linville Lanier from Lois Whitaker	1951-1952	7 items
Folder 15	Letters to Deana June Linville Lanier from Marcella Whitaker	1945-1947	6 items
Folder 16	Letters to Deana June Linville Lanier from Delana Wilson	1946-1950	12 items

BOX 3	Lanier Collection	1943-1982	142 items
Folder 1	Letters to Deana June Linville Lanier from various individuals	1943-1949	37 items
Folder 2	Letters to Deana June Linville Lanier from various individuals	1950-1952	39 items
Folder 3	Letters to Deana June Linville Lanier from various individuals	1953-1970	21 items
Folder 4	Letters to Deana June Linville Lanier from various individuals	n.d.	10 items
Folder 5	Class paper titled "Insurance" written by Deana June Linville Lanier	n.d.	2 items
Folder 6	Letters to parents from Stephanie Lanier and letter to Stephanie from grandmother Lanier	1965-1973	4 items
Folder 7	Linville family genealogy	n.d.	5 items
Folder 8	Harris, J. Frank miscellaneous items	1949-1982	5 items
Folder 9	News clippings	1954-1966	17 items
Folder 10	Photos of Deana and Thomas Lanier	n.d.	2 items
BOX 4	Lanier Collection	1787-1888	166 items
Folder 1	Ephemera	n.d.	41 items
Folder 2	Correspondence, receipts, etc. related to White family of Kentucky	1820-1888	16 items
Folder 3	Miscellaneous documents	1789-1853	44 items
Folder 4	Correspondence, receipts, and accounts, etc. for William F. Matlock	1846-1888	8 items
Folder 5	Correspondence, documents and other records related to Byrd Lanier	1800-1820	16 items
Folder 6	Legal papers, etc. related to Byrd Lanier's estate	1820-1822	25 items

Folder 7	Correspondence, legal and financial papers of Collins Lanier	1795-1835	8 items
Folder 8	Correspondence, receipts and other financial papers of William Lewis	1815-1820	7 items
Folder 9	Collins Lanier ciphering book	1787-1788	1 item

BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD

MSS LANIER Family Collection 1787-1982
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Collection consists chiefly of letters written to Deanna June (Linville) Lanier by friends and her family, particularly her mother Lena (Harris) Linville. Includes some interesting pen pal letters with a German child, 1948 to 1950. Includes genealogical material about the Lanier and Linville families. Also includes early Warren County, Kentucky material from brothers, Byrd Lanier and Collins Lanier, including a little correspondence, bills and notes, receipts, and property records.

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SUBJECT ANALYTICS

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Acorn – Relating to
Advertisement – Doctor Benjamin Godfrey’s Cordial B4,F8
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Appalachian diaspora – Relating to B1,F2
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SEE and SEE ALSO

Bowling Green College of Commerce
 See:
 Bowling Green Business University

Etherton, Norma Jean (Sears)
 See:
 Sears, Norma Jean

Holt, Bobbie Jo (Gilliland)
 See:
 Gilliland, Bobbie Jo

King, Pee Wee, 1914-2000

See:

Kuczynski, Julius Frank Anthony, 1914-2000

Lanier, Deana June (Linville), 1935-2003

See also:

Linville, Deana June, 1935-2003

Pistole, Mattie H., 1865-1937

See:

Pistole, Mattie (Harris), 1865-1937

Sledge/Jeffrey 03/24/2014